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SURRENDERED, COMMITTED, COMMISSIONED

Missionaries appointed for service

Seventy-seven new workers go forth from Hattiesburg

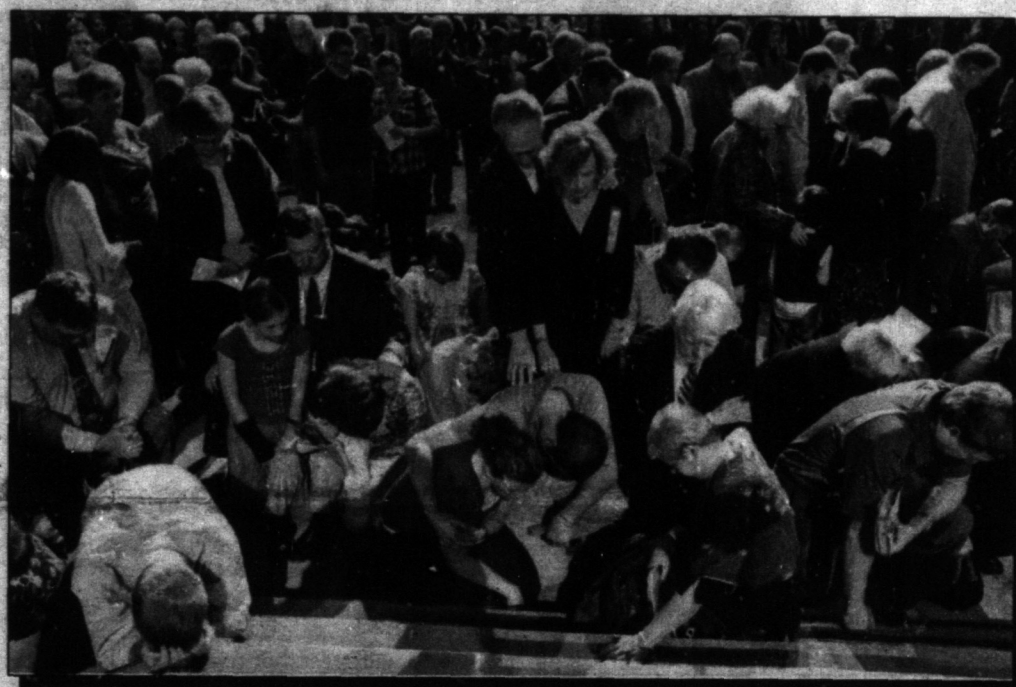
HATTIESBURG (BP) — Despite the many excuses people have for not answering the call to missions, God doesn't give up as easily as we give up on ourselves, according to some of the 77 new missionaries appointed by International Mission Board (IMB) trustees at Temple Church in Hattiesburg on Nov. 16.

"For many years, I didn't think God could really use me. I was just a normal, small-town girl with normal passions: children and education," said new missionary Naomi Singer (not her real name), who is going to sub-Saharan Africa as an education consultant for the children of mission workers.

"I love being wrong!" she told the crowd. "God is using what I have to offer."

By the age of 9, Vicky Kane (not her real name) was in her fifth foster home. "I had no future," she said. "Little did I know that God would use this to burden my heart for the spiritually orphaned."

After experiencing years



COMMITTED — Following the appointment of 77 new international missionaries at Temple Church in Hattiesburg on Nov. 16, hundreds of people come forward at International Mission Board President Tom Elliff's invitation to make their own personal commitments to mission service, support, and engagement. (BP photo)

of His healing and grace in the Christian family who adopted her, she's going to East Asia with her husband Darrin (not his real name) and their one-year-old daughter to tell people as hopeless as she once was that they have a loving Father.

Tyson Sellers (not his real name) was born with cataracts and has struggled with vision problems for years. "My eyes now [have been] opened to the nations," he said. His wife Sonya (not her real name) was born in a Christian home but was "determined to be ordinary, to lean on my own understanding."

Now they're headed out to make disciples of

Jesus among East Asians with "no excuses and no limitations."

Richard Gannet (not his real name) is a pastor's son who vowed he would never serve in ministry. His wife Sally didn't even become a believer in Christ until college. "We never thought that we would be going to South Asia to work with Muslims through community development," he admitted.

"Through God's amazing work, we go to share the love of Christ in word and deed."

After 9/11, Taylor Bishop (not his real name) developed a hatred for Muslims but as

he looked out over one of the largest cities in the Middle East during a 2009 trip, "God

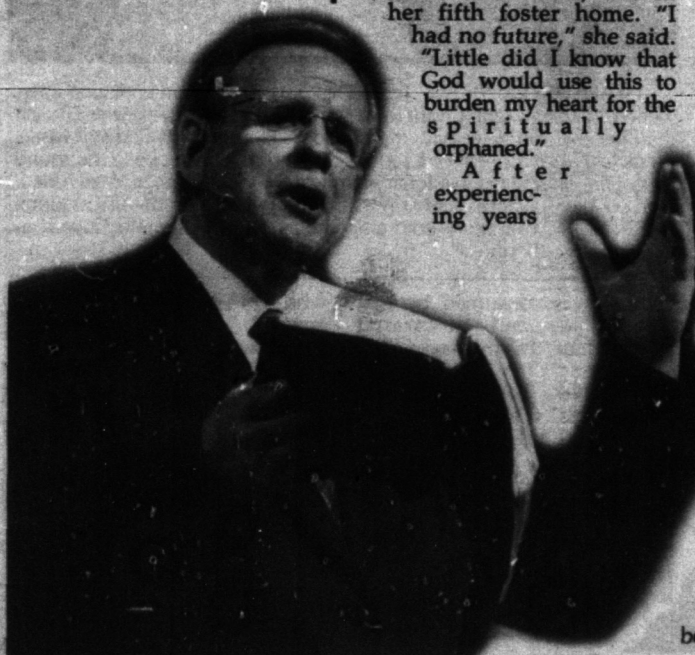
captured my heart for Muslims. I asked myself, 'How can I not go?'"

He's going with his wife Chandra (not her real name) to live among a Muslim people group in West Africa.

The missionary appointment service was held in conjunction with Baptist-affiliated William Carey University in Hattiesburg.

See "Commissioned," on page two

MISSIONARY CHARGE — Tom Elliff, newly-inaugurated president of the International Mission Board (IMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention, addresses those in attendance at the Oct. 16 missionary commissioning service at Temple Church, Hattiesburg. Elliff, a former IMB missionary, succeeded native Mississippian Jerry Rankin, who retired. The IMB, headquartered in Richmond, Va., oversees the sending and support of Southern Baptist missionaries and workers — many of whom cannot be publicly identified because of the sensitivity of their assignments. (BP photo)





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An embarrassing vote

The campaign for Initiative 26, also known as the Personhood Amendment, went down to defeat on November 8 by a margin of 58% of voters against and 48% in favor. The wording, like all constitutional amendments, was simple enough: *Should the term "person" be defined to include every human being from the moment of fertilization, cloning, or the equivalent thereof?*

Those few words, if approved, would have been the catalyst for public debate, legislation, and adjudication that would have ultimately resulted in the protection of human life from "the moment of fertilization" (or conception, as some people preferred). That's how the constitutional amending process works.

Contrary to the scare tactics for which a majority of voters apparently fell — promulgated by out-of-state Planned Parenthood organizations and the American Civil Liberties Union, who banded together to organize a front group laughably named, Mississippians for Healthy Families — Initiative

26 would not have resulted in dead mothers and imprisoned doctors.

It would have changed the way unborn babies are treated, however. Sadly, a majority of voters didn't seem to care about that little detail. Mississippi voters over the years have apparently settled into a comfortable relationship with abortion and other forms of death for the unborn.

Commissioned

and its celebration marking the 250th anniversary of the birth of Carey, the British shoemaker who became the "father of modern missions."

Carey himself struggled with resistance to his mission call from Baptists of his day, as well as his own family.

During the appointment service, the university's Serampore Players, a student theater group named for the Bengali area of India where Carey served, dramatized the 1786 incident when a leading minister responded to Carey's call for obeying the Great Commission by saying, "Sit down, young man... When God wants to convert the heathen, He can do it without your help or mine."

Carey persevered, and changed history.

"Some of you may have the same question that we just saw theatrically performed," IMB President Tom Elliff said during his message, addressing family members and friends of Southern Baptists' newest missionaries.

"Maybe you're asking, 'What's gotten into my kids? What kind of a person would leave everything behind — family, friends, an occupation or an education here — and go to some dark corner of this world to plant his or her life? ... What kind of a person would do what these folks are doing at their age and stage in life?'"

After all, it's handy to have around in case something ever happens in one's family.

It is apparently acceptable for a majority of Mississippi voters to think of themselves as, "I'm pro-life, but..." with a thousand excuses coming after the "but." That made voting against the measure a lot more palatable.

Initiative 26 was a measure that had been thoroughly vetted after many hours of research by the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission. The commission was not the lead group in the Initiative 26 campaign, as a grass roots organization named Yes on 26 had already been formed. Upon completion of the vetting process, the commission threw its support behind the measure and wholeheartedly recommended it to the messengers attending the 176th annual session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention meeting in late October at First Church, Jackson.

Those messengers, who represented the sentiments of the member churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, unanimously approved a resolution of support for Initiative 26 — but given the sheer numbers of Mississippi Baptists in the state, it would appear that many people in our congregations chose to vote against Initiative 26.

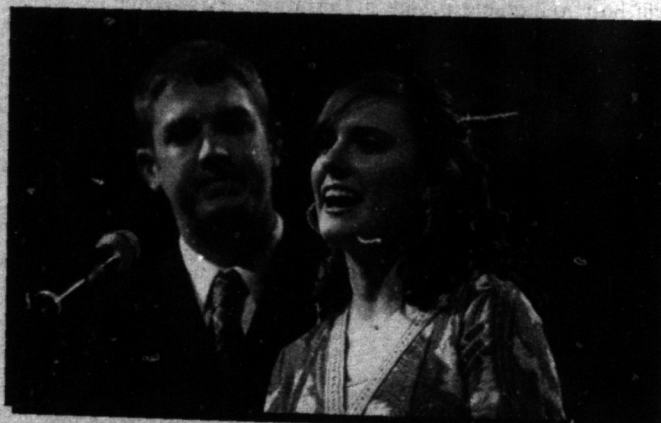
With nearly 700,000 of the state's residents professing to be Mississippi Baptists/Southern Baptists, there are enough of us to carry any issue of importance on election day. Yet Initiative 26 went down to defeat by a wide margin, almost a mandate. It's a sad — yea, embarrassing — reflection on Mississippi Baptists that, even

in the face of overwhelming evidence and the Mississippi Baptist Convention's unconditional support, this life-saving measure couldn't be approved. Have Mississippi Baptists become as comfortable with the death of the unborn as the rest of Mississippi's voters?

Jimmy Porter, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, said after the vote, "We mourn with heaven tonight over the loss of Initiative 26, which would have provided the hope of life for thousands of God's unborn babies in Mississippi. Instead, the unborn in Mississippi will continue to be led down a path of destruction to horrible deaths both inside their mothers and in laboratories. How much longer will God stand for this unprecedented atrocity in Mississippi and the United States? Time will tell, but in the meantime we will be marshaling our forces under God's direction and deciding what's next for this movement."

Indeed, how much longer will God stand for this atrocity perpetrated on the most innocent of His children? If that question doesn't drive Mississippi Baptists to their knees in front of Him, what will?

Editor's note: A testimony of child sexual abuse that was published at the beginning of last week's commentary in this space did not have a tag line that should have read "Anonymous author." As a result, several readers erroneously assumed it was authored by the editor. The testimony is not that of the editor, and he regrets any confusion created by the inadvertent omission of that tag line.



HEADED TO AFRICA — Trisha Dickinson (right) said until God intervened, "I knew I didn't want to be a missionary like my parents." Trisha had her own struggles with the mission call, but said "God still works miracles." As a 12-year-old, Joshua Dickinson (left) awoke to the sound of gunfire driving his missionary family from their home in West Africa. The couple was appointed as missionaries to sub-Saharan Africa during the Nov. 16 missionary commissioning service at Temple Church in Hattiesburg. (BP photo)

Paul was consumed by that mission — and he wasn't ashamed of the message, Elliff said.

"As [New York pastor] Tim Keller says, the Gospel is not advice," Elliff noted. "The Gospel is an announcement. You don't have to have permission to give an announcement. Jesus saves. That's what makes the difference in the world. Everybody is either saved or lost. And Jesus is the only one

who can provide eternal life to anyone."

As the new missionaries stood across the front of Temple Church's sanctuary at the end of the service, hundreds of people came forward at Elliff's invitation to make their own personal commitments to mission service, support, and engagement.

The next missionary appointment service will be March 21 at Trinity Church in Lake Charles, La.

NAMB seeks urban, multi-ethnic leaders

Partnership with Rebuild Initiative aims to identify, train church planters

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — In an effort to enhance the reach of the North American Mission Board (NAMB) Send North America strategy, the mission board is embarking on a partnership with The Rebuild Initiative.

Stemming from the vision and passion of two urban church planters, Rebuild is intent on identifying, equipping, and networking urban church planters and leaders. The Rebuild Initiative is a network of churches that exists to plant multi-ethnic churches.

"Rebuild brings the focus of the Gospel into cultural context," said Dhathi Lewis, president of the organization. "What you often find is people who are culturally contextual but not theologically sound, or they are theologically sound but not culturally relevant. With Rebuild we are working with leaders who are both."

"We have a desire to connect new leaders who will be theologically sound and culturally relevant. We want to help raise up indigenous leaders and train them theologically so we can come together and address urban culture."

In addition to establishing a network of urban church planters and leaders, Rebuild will host roundtable events in key urban areas to equip and encourage leaders.

Noting that the Send North America strategy includes urban settings, NAMB President Kevin Ezell voiced enthusiasm "about what Dhathi Lewis and Larry Grays are doing to mentor urban leaders and how the Rebuild Initiative can show us how to reach urban

centers better, to model it so we can bring others alongside and make a significant difference in urban settings."

Grays is vice president of Rebuild and pastor of Midtown Bridge Church in Atlanta. Lewis is pastor of Blueprint Church, which launched in downtown Atlanta last year.

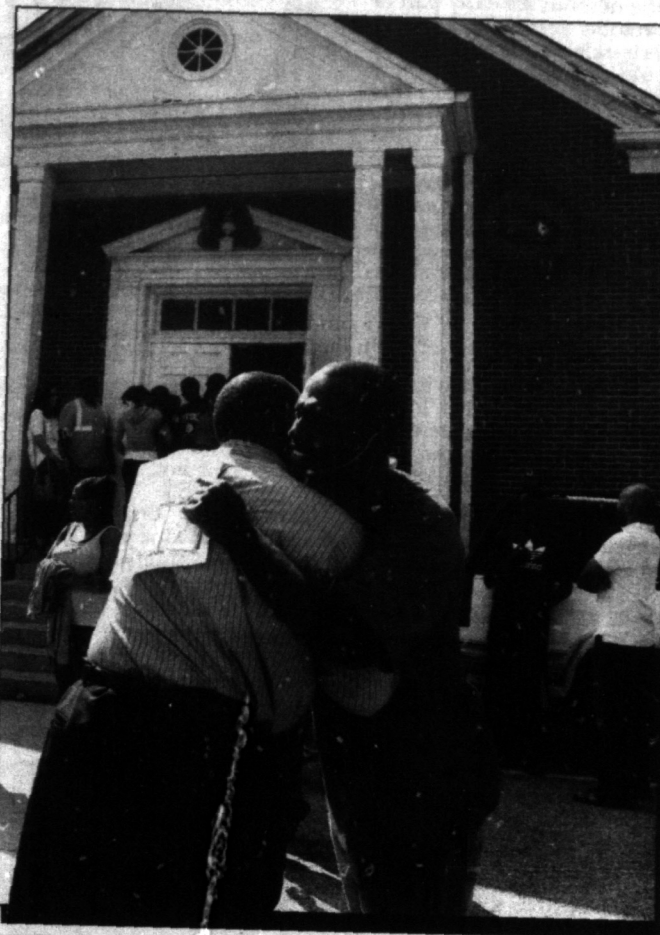
"One of the biggest challenges facing urban church planting is awareness," Grays said. "If we are going to be serious as a convention about the Great Commission and reaching unreached people and underserved people, I think we've got to look at the urban environment."

Aaron Coe, NAMB vice president for mobilization, underscored Rebuild's synthesis of urban development, leadership equipping, and church planting.

"The Rebuild Initiative will include roundtable conferences where leaders can exchange ideas and be further developed for church planting," Coe said. "The ultimate goal of Rebuild is to see church planters come out of the process. Rebuild is a natural fit for the Send North America strategy."

NAMB's Send North America strategy is an effort to mobilize individuals and churches for church planting in key population centers across North America. The strategy entails finding churches that are already directly planting new churches and helping them do more. For churches not directly involved, meanwhile, NAMB will help them get started with hands-on church planting activities.

"Rebuild can provide a platform for minority leaders who



NEW PARTNERSHIP — Dhathi Lewis (right), pastor of Blueprint Church in downtown Atlanta, is president of The Rebuild Initiative, which is beginning a partnership with the North American Mission Board to raise up leaders to address urban culture — leaders who are both indigenous to the community and trained theologically. (BP photo)

get it theologically and who can connect with people," Lewis said. "We have been blessed by the grace of God to reach a network that no one else has reached — urban, hip hop, young professional. We can get leaders equipped, get ahead of the cultural curve and reach people where they are. Rebuild is already scheduled to host roundtables in several Send North America cities. The partnership makes a lot of sense."

Blueprint Church started with 25 adults who moved from the Dallas/Fort Worth area to Atlanta in 2009. They began

small groups and soon had 50 people meeting in community. Blueprint now has 380 in worship, including approximately 100 college students primarily from Georgia State University and Georgia Tech.

"Our people are very missional. They intersect the everyday lives of people in their community," Lewis said. "Our goal is to plant five new churches in Atlanta in the next five years."

Grays and Midtown Bridge have helped Blueprint get established and connected. The city is distinct from suburban church planting, Grays noted.

Looking back

10 years ago

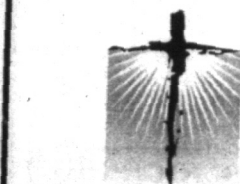
LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention opens its largest store Nov. 16 with a dedication service and ribbon-cutting ceremony. The store is in Ridgewood Court in north Jackson.

20 years ago

Mississippi Baptists, meeting at First Church, Jackson, adopt a \$21 million budget, pass a number of non-controversial resolutions, and elect a layman as president. The 1,708 registered messengers select a 75-year-old physician, W.W. Walley, as the new president.

50 years ago

Approximately 600 men attend the annual State Brotherhood Banquet at the Masonic Temple in Jackson, held during the annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer
with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

BIBLIOPHER

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
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ISLZZLK HYL FL, DOLU
TLU ZOHSS OHAL FVB,
HUK DOLU AOLP
ZOHSS ZLWHYHAL FVB
MYVT AOLPY JVTWHUF,
HUK ZOHSS YLWYVHJO
FVB, HUK JHZA VBA
FVBY UHTL HZ LCPS,
MVY AOL ZVU VM
THU'Z ZHRL.

SBRL ZPE: ADLUAF-
ADV

Clue: J = C

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark Nine; Thirty-Seven

DOING NOTHING

What came to the forefront of the news in the early part of November seemed to be just a sports-related scandal that would probably last for a few hours or a day or so. What seemed to be a local story about an incident of a child being sexually abused began to grow, and then news of other children being sexually abused grew and grew — not because the news media were driving it but because the revelations of what took place continued to mount. By the end of the week one of the great universities in America, Penn State, was blackened with the soot of sexual atrocities inflicted on children who were less gifted than others, but also more vulnerable than others. That was bad enough on its own, but then came additional revelations that pointed to the beloved head football coach at the university who not only had been there for 46 years but had only recently become the winningest football coach in history of the top division. Had he been involved in those terrible things inflicted on the children? Not really! There is no evidence at all that he ever harmed one of the children, but what he did do was nothing — or at least not enough.

You see, the incident of a man sexually abusing a child was reported to the coach. Whatever he did with the information, it did not remove that coach from his position, nor did it stop the violations. By week's end the head coach had been dismissed. The president of the university had been fired and others had been put on leave. Two people have been indicted on perjury charges. The number one news story across the land day after day had become this terrible incident. It was all because those who were in positions to do something chose to either do nothing or not do enough.

There is a word from God given to Moses that says, "And be sure your sin will find you out" (Num. 32:23b). Now while many of you may know that statement you may not know the entire verse which says, "But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

will find you out." If you will look at it closely, you will see that what God was saying was if you know what to do and you do not do anything about it, be sure your sin will find you out. James writes in his little book in the New Testament the same thing, but he expresses this truth in a little bit different way. He says, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (James 4:17).

How many times have I watched someone who could have said something, who could have made a difference, or who could have stepped up and stood strong in the Lord, but chose to be quiet, turn their head, walk away, and feel comfortable in doing nothing? While lawsuits are being brought and no doubt a trial or multiple trials will be held, who knows where all of that will go. It is important for every one of us to stop and think about not only what we do but what we do not do.

As we consider this issue not just related to Penn State but to our everyday living, I must point out that one of the dilemmas that all of us face is the fact that we cannot do everything. It is impossible for anyone to do everything that everybody wants them to do whether it is on a personal and local level, statewide need, nationally, or internationally. The ads, the mail, the calls, and the appeals are constant. I am constantly asking myself how can I help or is this beyond the scope of what I am able to do? Like it or not, it requires that every day and sometimes it seems almost moment-by-moment you have to be going through a prioritizing process. You cannot do everything if for no other reason than there is not enough time. You could probably fill a 48-hour day, eight days a week and never

be able to fill all the opportunities of service and response that would come. So how do you set priorities?

The overarching and ultimate concern is that they be God guided. Are there things that God would say to us to give attention to this thing or that thing? Absolutely! For those of us who know the Lord, Jesus Christ and His church are at the zenith of our priorities. There may be a million other things and a thousand other important, urgent things to which you need to give your attention, but what God is doing in and through His church is to be front and center in our lives.

A second important dimension of priorities is to be time sensitive. There are events, crises, and calls that cannot wait until tomorrow or next week, but they demand a now response. In all that has been said and written about the events at Penn State, one question that gets so much attention is why didn't someone step in and stop what apparently was going on, rescue the child, and push back the violator. That is a question that often enters into

our concern as we are looking at a great need before us.

A third aspect of priority setting has to do with whether or not others are being endangered whether young or elderly, minority or majority, male or female, rich or poor. Are there people being endangered, abused, or treated unjustly? It is important for us to remember that while we cannot do everything, we can do something. In nearly all of our days and in many of our ways, we can find opportunities to do something to make a difference in folks and for folks.

You and I can make ourselves available to God, and God promises that He will lead us. There will be moments when, although you have other ideas in mind in what you are going to do and where you need to be, suddenly you realize that God has brought about a moment in your life to which you need to pay attention and simply allow Him to work through you to touch, to help, to rescue, to redeem, and simply to care. When you do, you will make a difference.

As the revelations continue to unfold concerning the children who were violated, a reoccurring expression has been heard from the head coach and all around. "I wish I had done more." Today look to Jesus and do what you can to make a difference in the lives of others and for Him. Don't just do nothing!

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

MS POSITIONS

STRONGHOPE BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER. Please send resumes to 1144 King Rd. Wesson, MS 39191 Attention: Youth Pastor Search Committee. 601-894-4693.

UNION HALL BAPTIST CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN, MS IS SEEKING A PART-TIME YOUTH DIRECTOR. Resumes may be mailed to the church at: 1242 Nola Road N. E., Brookhaven, MS 39601. Attention: Youth Director Search Committee.

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OAK HILL IN MERIDIAN IS LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME SECRETARY beginning January 1st. Interested persons can call 601-482-5583 or email a resume to nike.ohbc@comcast.net.

OAK HILL B.C. IN MERIDIAN IS LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH. Resumes can be emailed to mike.ohbc@comcast.net or mailed to OHBC P.O. Box 3938, Meridian, MS 39303.

THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST FOUNDATION IS SEEKING QUALIFIED APPLICANTS FOR THE POSITION OF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER. Please see the Foundation's website at www.msbbf.org for more details.

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CENTER RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH OF YAZOO COUNTY IS SEEKING A PART-TIME MUSIC DIRECTOR. For details call 662-571-8388 or 662-746-1528

MAIN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH, MENDENHALL, MS IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A PASTOR. Please mail resumes to Main Street Baptist Church, 550 Main Street South, Mendenhall, MS 39114. Attention: Pastor Search Committee.

INTERSTATE BAPTIST CHURCH IN SHAW, MS IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME PASTOR. Send resumes to: John Choucolli, 947 Sandpit Road, Shaw, MS 38773 or email to: jchoucolli@cablone.net

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DAMASCUS BAPTIST CHURCH, MADISON COUNTY MS IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A BIVOCATIONAL PASTOR. Please mail resumes to the church at: PO Box 846, Flora, MS 39071. Attention: Pastor Search Committee.

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH IN BROOKHAVEN, MS IS SEEKING A PART-TIME MINISTER OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH. Resumes may be emailed to questions@cbcbrookhaven.org or mailed to P.O. Box 591, Brookhaven, MS 39602.

YAZOO COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION IS NOW RECEIVING RESUMES FOR THE POSITION OF ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS DIRECTOR. This is a bi-vocational position. Please mail resumes to 4794 Mechanicsburg Road, Bentonla, MS 39040, attention: Jimmy Wayne Pettis.

NEW SIGHT BAPTIST CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN, MS IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL MUSIC DIRECTOR. Send resumes to: Charlotte Newell, 1017 Common Street, Wesson, MS 39191 or email to wanchar2353@att.net.

Torture reports surface in case of jailed Iranian pastor

TURKEY (BP) — The mistreatment of a pastor in Iran awaiting a decision on his death sentence for refusing to recant his faith amounts to physical and psychological torture, a source close to the pastor's family said.

Yusef (also spelled Youcef) Nadarkhani, sentenced to death a year ago after a court of appeals in Rasht, Iran, found him guilty of leaving Islam, is in deteriorating health, according to a member of Nadarkhani's denomination, the Church of Iran, who requested anonymity.

He said that communication with Nadarkhani is limited, but that sources close to the imprisoned Christian indicated that he has undergone physical and psychological torture.

"Certainly he was hit, but his [telephone] conversations are heard [by authorities]," the source said. "We know that he has been in extreme situations, and we consider that torture. When you have

spent time in a solitary cell unable to talk to others for a long time, or you are told you will be killed, this is also torture."

The court in Rasht, 150 miles northwest of Tehran, was expected to pronounce a verdict on Nadarkhani's appeal in October, and sources said the court's long silence bodes ill. Instead of pronouncing a verdict, the court sent the Christian's case to the nation's Islamic authority, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei, to make a ruling.

Authorities have also continued to pressure Nadarkhani to recant his faith



Nadarkhani

while in prison. Last month they gave him Islamic literature aimed at discrediting the Bible, according to sources, and instructed him to read it.

Some sources indicate a ruling could come the second half of December. One said some Iranian Christians believe that, in the face of international outrage over the case, the government would announce a verdict near the Christmas holidays so that it would receive less notice.

On Nov. 10, the Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN) reported that a verdict on Nadarkhani's case was expected in mid-December, regardless of whether there is a ruling by Khamenei.

Authorities arrested Nadarkhani in his home city of Rasht in Oct. 2009 on charges that he questioned obligatory religion classes in Iranian schools. After finding him guilty of apostasy, the

court of appeals in Rasht in November 2010 issued a written confirmation of his charges and death sentence.

At an appeal hearing in June, the Supreme Court of Iran upheld Nadarkhani's sentence but asked the court in Rasht to determine if he was a practicing Muslim before his conversion. The court declared that Nadarkhani was not a practicing Muslim before his conversion, but that he was still guilty of apostasy due to his Muslim ancestry.

The Supreme Court had also determined that his death sentence could be annulled if he recanted his faith.

Editor's note: Reported by Compass Direct News (www.compassdirect.org), a news service based in Santa Ana, Calif., focusing on Christians worldwide who are persecuted for their faith. Used by permission. Local reports have been added.

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. **Unity Church, Moselle:** Revival, Nov. 27 - 30; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Doyle Williamson, speaker.



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STAFF CHANGES



1. The Johnsons



2. The Crums

1. M.C. Johnson is retiring after serving 26 years as Associational Missions Director for North Delta Association. He and his wife Helen will continue to reside in Clarksdale. Shown are the Johnsons.
2. Unity Church, Iuka, has called Wayne Crum as pastor. He was ordained Oct. 23 at Harmony Hill Church, Burnsville. He is shown with his wife Lynette and daughters, Hanna and Ellen.



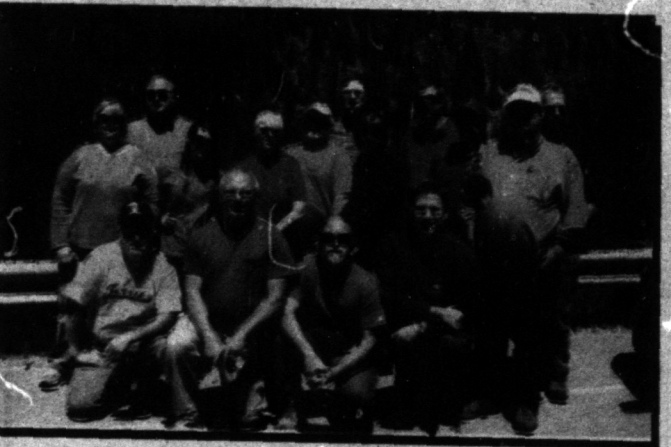
3. The DeGeorges



1. Gumpond Church, Lumberton



2. DeSoto Church, Clarke County



3. First Church, Terry



4. Krumcke ordination

1. Gumpond Church, Lumberton, held a fall festival recently, including a youth Native American dance troop from Bogue Homa Community Church near Sandersville under the direction of Pearl Thomas. Hubert and Connie Ladner with the Mission Service Corps serve the church as pastor and Sunday School director/teacher. Shown is the dance troop with Thomas (2nd row, 1st from right), Connie Ladner (2nd row, 3rd from right), and Hubert Ladner (2nd row, 5th from right).

2. DeSoto Church, Clarke County, held their annual fall festival Oct. 22, featuring hayrides, pony rides, inflatable jumps, cakewalks, potato sack races, chili & soup cook-offs and other activities. Shown are participants James Roberts and Eli Harris.

3. First Church, Terry, sent a mission team of 16 people to Troy, Montana, June 4-11 to help build a new educational and ministry building for Troy Community Church. The team helped complete the framing of the two-story building, including the cutting and milling of some of the wood used in the project. Shown are the participants.

4. Bissell Church, Tupelo, ordained Bruce Krumcke as deacon Nov. 6. Shown are pastor Roger Smith, Kelli Krumcke, and Krumcke.

5. First Church, Plantersville, held a fall festival recently. Shown are some of the participants.

6. Wesson Church, Wesson, recently ordained Jimmy Barker as deacon. He is seen with his wife Marilyn and interim pastor Alan Woodward.

7. Black Jack Church, Vaughan, ordained Jay Nesbit and David England as deacons Nov. 11. Shown are Donnie Pepper, Nesbit, England, and pastor David White.

8. The youth of Mt. Olive Church, Baldwin, honored veterans of the church with a breakfast and took up donations for the veterans home in Oxford. Shown are the veterans and the youth.



5. First Church, Plantersville



6. Barker ordination



7. Black Jack Church, Vaughan



8. Mt. Olive Church, Baldwin



1. Unity Church, Georgetown

1. Unity Church, Georgetown, held a baby dedication Nov. 13. Shown are the participants.

2. Iuka Church, Tishomingo County, ordained Acey Floyd to the gospel ministry. Shown are Floyd and pastor Ronnie Hatfield.

3. Eureka Church, Lena, will host the Melody Boys Quartet Dec. 3, 6 p.m.

4. Corinth Church, Hiedleberg, will present the cantata, Beautiful Star of Bethlehem Dec. 25, 10 a.m.

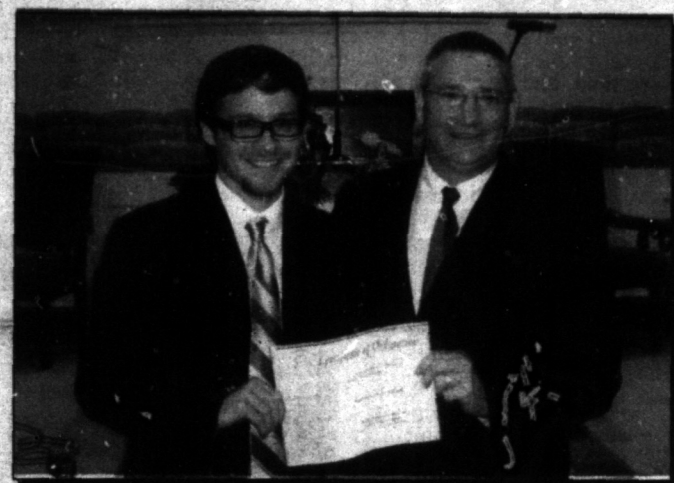
5. Vardaman Church, Kemper County, will have Thomas Hamill share his story Nov. 27, 6 p.m. Hamill was captured while in Iraq and wrote the book Escape in Iraq.

6. Algoma Church, Algoma, is hosting their 20th annual drive-thru Nativity Dec. 9-10, 6-9 p.m., rain or shine. Free.

7. New Sight Church, Brookhaven, will host a drive-thru live Nativity Dec. 9-10, 7-9 p.m., and Dec. 25, 5-7 p.m.

8. The sanctuary choir, orchestra, and keyboards of Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, will host their annual presentation of The Glory of Christmas Dec. 11, 3 p.m.

9. Richmond Church, Tupelo, honored Irene McDaniel upon her



3. Floyd ordination



9. McDaniel and Anthony

retirement as Sunday School secretary after 78 years. She received a lunch in her honor, a plaque from Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer, Mississippi

Baptist Convention Board, and a letter of commendation from Thom Rainer, president of LifeWay. Shown are McDaniel and pastor Clay Anthony.

Church security: 'foreseeable crimes' must be addressed

By Chester L. Quarles
Correspondent

Third in a seven-part, aperiodical series

Walk around your church. Stand at each entryway and look closely in every direction. Think like a thief or a criminal. Are you surrounded by subdivisions, or is your church located within a business community? No matter your site, you should look for burglar bars, steel doors, burglar alarm signs, and indications of intense police or private security activity. Do the same walk-about at night.

Individual victims may be significantly harmed in any crime. When the crime occurs at church, however, the danger is that the fellowship may be harmed along with attendance. Folks won't worship at sites they are afraid to visit.

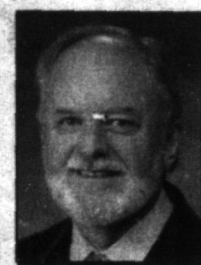
There is also a strong liability issue. When a civil suit results from a harm at your site, the usual claim is that the church "did not exercise ordinary care." If your church is in an inner-city crime hot zone, or any crime-intensive venue, there is also the issue of "foreseeability," another legal term implying that you did not attempt to prevent criminal activity.

The phrases, due diligence and due care, are also frequently heralded in litigation. Failure to respond to assessed risks appropriately may well be considered negligence. The Scriptures also address this issue: "A prudent man foresees evil and takes refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it." (Proverbs 22:3 NIV)

Many observers believe that a determined adversary can overcome almost any security effort, but this isn't true! If a determined adversary could defeat any security system, we would not be able to keep an American president in office, our national treasury would be continually pilfered, and our personal bank accounts wouldn't be safe.

In the late 80's, skyjackings occurred at the rate of two or three each month. Today these attacks are rarely heard of. Effective security was employed! The security practices used to protect airlines, our financial institutions, and our governing bodies can be used to protect houses of worship.

A purse left in an unoccupied Bible-study class is a soft target. That same purse sitting on the pew between a wife and



Quarles

her husband is much more secure and is a hardened target. Target hardening also involves locks, lights,

security doors, fences, alarms, and closed circuit television units.

For a church, the primary form of target hardening is called access control. If guardians, whether they be church members, greeters, or private security officers, can limit access to your parking lots and then to your sanctuary, you will have established the first and second tier or layer of security protocols.

While you can depend on the police to assist you with risk assessment and crime prevention advice, you should understand that the police will investigate your crime after it has occurred and rarely are they able to prevent church crimes. At a spree-shooting in Illinois, police responded in 90 seconds, but there were already seven dead worshippers and 11 more injured.

Philip Purpura wrote, "The police response is primarily reactive and departments are under great pressure to solve crimes. As a result, the proactive efforts that would reduce risks at houses of worship are rarely in place. (Purpura, Securing Houses of Worship: A Community Service Manual, 1999, 10).

The belief is naïve that the local police department's responsibility is to protect the individual, the home, or the community institution. One church security specialist called this belief "toxic" faith-based secular security. Most Americans take crime avoidance precautions. We lock our homes and cars. We try not to leave valuables within easy reach of criminals, and we are vigilant.

The church, as an institution, must also be vigilant!

Quarles is professor emeritus of criminal justice and homeland security at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, and co-author of the book, Crime Prevention for Houses of Worship. He may be contacted at cquarles@olemiss.edu. Copyright 2011. Used by permission.

NAMB chaplain continues serving troops in Afghanistan

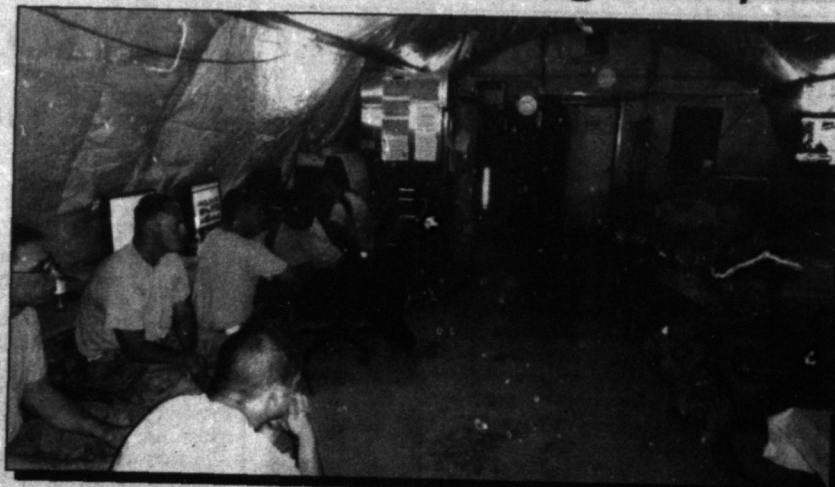
KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (BP) — U.S. Air Force Chaplain (Capt.) Kevin Humphrey's last quarterly report to the North American Mission Board (NAMB) chaplaincy group in Alpharetta, Ga., reads like the script of a Hollywood blockbuster—but the combat incidents are real, true wartime stories of battlefield death, horrific injury, bloodshed, bravery, and close calls.

"It has been a very challenging time here in Kandahar," said the 38-year-old NAMB-endorsed chaplain, who serves in the 451st Air Expeditionary Wing. "The dangers are very real and it weighs on the people's minds here. Back in the summer, there were rocket attacks almost every two days or so and sometimes twice a day," Humphrey said, adding that the attacks have slowed this fall.

Combat deaths in the region come so often that American flags never go more than four days without dropping to half-staff in honor of the fallen, Humphrey said.

Humphrey, one of about 190 military chaplains in the Afghanistan theater, said Taliban forces in the area are constantly adapting their methods to inflict the most damage and death to U.S. and coalition forces.

"Several dangerous plots have been discovered, many of which can't be discussed due to the sensitive security considerations. Needless to say, had they not been discovered, the loss of



QUICK SERVICE — Air Force Chaplain (Capt.) Kevin Humphrey (second from right) conducts a 10-minute "combat service" for A-10 plane maintainers in Afghanistan — the only worship service they may be able to attend because of their busy mission schedules. (BP photo)

life would have been real and great," Humphrey said.

One of Humphrey's most recent scares came at the nearby base hospital where he was volunteering as chaplain so the Navy chaplain usually on duty could take a well-deserved day off. While Humphrey couldn't reveal details because of security concerns, the incident came close to

claiming his life and the lives of hospital personnel — most of whom had never been so close to dying before.

"It's brutal at the hospital and the ministry is tough. They've had many single, double, or triple amputees come through in the last two months. The things you are exposed to there are things that no human being should have to see, but it is a powerful ministry to the staff and patients."

The many dangers in Afghanistan come without warning, Humphrey said. "During a recent rocket attack, a Department of Defense compound was hit. Their chaplain was unavailable so I went and ministered to 250 shaken DOD army civilians."

"The building's generator just happened to go out about 30 minutes prior to the rocket attack so only six people were in the building at the time it was hit. Had the generator not gone out, several people would have been killed. Thanks to God, only six had minor shrapnel injuries."

"I spoke with one man who couldn't understand why he was not in the building at the time and didn't die. I shared that God says in Hebrews we are appointed once to die and that our day of death has been fixed by God, and that God has a plan and purpose for our lives. While he is not yet a Christian, he is now seeking God for the first time in his life."

Humphrey said he conducts seven combat services each week for his units. "I have preached three times at contemporary services in the Army's chapel," he said, adding that the services are attended not only by American troops but also by soldiers from the coalition nations: Brits, Canadians, Pakistani Christians, and others.

"It makes me think that this is what heaven will be like, with every tribe and nation," he said.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Mt. Pisgah Church, Carrollton

- The youth and children of Mt. Pisgah Church, Carrollton, went to Bull Bottom Farms for their harvest festival. Shown are some of the participants.
- The children of Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto, held a fall festival and trunk-or-treat in the church parking lot. Shown are some of the participants.



2. Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto

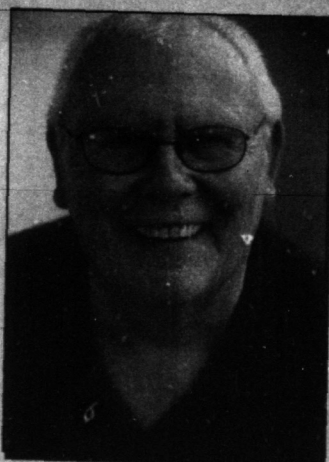
COLLEGE NEWS

- Mississippi College retired art professor Kenneth Quinn will receive an honorary doctorate during the university's graduation ceremonies Dec. 16 in the A.E. Wood Coliseum. Quinn graduated from MC in 1961 and taught for 15 years.
- Mississippi College recently hosted the regional competition of the National Association of Teachers of Singing. Founded in 1944, NATS is the largest professional association of teachers of singing in the world with more than 7,000

members in the United States, Canada and 25 other countries. About 500 singers from universities in three Southern states visited Mississippi College to show off their musical talents. Students from schools like Ouachita Baptist University, Arkansas Tech, Louisiana State University, the University of Southern Mississippi, William Carey University and Mississippi College participated.

- Mississippi College will present five performances of The Best

Christmas Pageant Ever Dec. 1 - 4 at Swor Auditorium. Performances on December 1 at Swor Auditorium are set for 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. and there will be a 10 a.m. show on December 2. The final two shows will be December 3-4 with the production beginning at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for general admission, \$5 for all students, MC employees and senior adults. Special rates are available for groups of 20 or more at \$3 per person. For more information, call (601) 925-3935.



1. Quinn

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First '.Mom' event reaches women across country

Visit from celebrity family surprises attendees at LifeWay conference

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Fifteen hundred moms show up in a big room with no infants, toddlers, tweens or teens. What do they do?

First, they smile — a lot. They laugh. Finally, they take a deep breath, realizing they will have 24 hours of grown-up woman time with the sisterhood of mothers.

Mom (pronounced Dot Mom) — the first event for mothers of all ages sponsored by the LifeWay Women area of LifeWay Christian Resources — was in Birmingham and hosted by Sophie Hudson and Melanie Shankle, both prolific bloggers in the "mom blog" world.

"Sophie and Melanie are known around the country for their blogs," said Melissa Wilson, LifeWay Women event coordinator. "Sophie's 'BooMama' blog and Melanie's 'big mama' blog are fun and fresh and full of personality, just like they are. We thought they would be fun people to host the .Mom event, and they were great."

Conference participants were treated to a surprise when the Duggers, the Arkansas family from the TV series, 19 Kids and Counting, were welcomed onto the stage. The Dugger parents recently announced they are expecting their 20th child.

"They were already in Birmingham, so at the last minute we asked Jim Bob [the dad] if they would come say hello," Wilson said.

The Duggers were working with Impact Alabama, helping to rebuild homes destroyed by late April's tornadoes.

"They happened to be staying at our hotel," Wilson said, "and since LifeWay already has a relationship with them [program personalities at the LifeWay Kids conference], we asked them to stop by. We were thrilled when all of the family was able to show up and sing for us. Only Michelle, the mom, and the youngest baby were unable to be there since they were both sick."

Melissa Greene, formerly with the group Avalon, was the conference's worship leader. Mom's featured speakers included Angela Thomas, Vicki Courtney, Priscilla Shirer, and Angie Smith, all popular authors and speakers.

"All these women are well-known to our moms-of-all-ages audience," Wilson said. "They all have written wonderful Bible studies for LifeWay Women. Besides that, they are all moms themselves — some with very young children and some with adult children — so they know the world our audience lives in."

Thomas, in her time onstage, said moms have to remember every day is filled with trial and error. "None of us have this parenting thing down," she said,

"but I hope we're just all passing notes around here. I'll share something that has worked for me with you, and you share something that has worked for you with me."

The women chose from dozens of breakout sessions during the Sept. 23-24 gathering on such topics as adoption/infertility issues, raising girls, raising boys, exercise and nutrition, body image, and parenting adult children.

A panel of women, each of whom had dealt with infertility, shared stories about the joy of creating their families through adoption.

Heather Platt from Birmingham is a mother of two boys, one adopted and one biological. She and her husband David, pastor of The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham and best-selling author, are in the process of adopting a girl.

She said she was angry when she realized becoming pregnant was going to be extremely difficult for them. "I think I hosted 18 or 19 baby showers while we were at seminary," Platt said. "I still grieve a little bit, but adoption has been such a blessing for us."

Kris Seidenkranz from Franklin, Tn., the mother of two adopted children, a boy and a girl, said that while she and her husband were disappointed when they realized they would not have biological children, they have never considered their adopted children "second best."

"These adopted kids are absolutely my first best," Seidenkranz said. "I almost hate to talk about my infertility issues because I know, looking from the other side, adoption is our very best. It's God's perfect design for our family."

Wilson, noting that .Mom was designed for moms of all ages with children of all ages, said, "It was incredible to see three generations from a family — all moms attending together. We offered speakers and conferences from young moms in their 20s all the way to some great-grandmothers... Our prayer had been for moms to walk away encouraged, energized, and excited about being the mom God has called them to be."

Wilson said next year's .Mom is being planned, Sept. 21-22 in Birmingham. "We learned a lot from the first event, so the 2012 event should be even better," she said. Registration is underway, with early .Mom registrants receiving a discounted rate.

Meanwhile, straight-talking Jackie Kendall was telling mom in a breakout session, "Don't let your daughter marry a bozo."

Kendall didn't hold back from telling moms they have a respon-



PRAISING GOD — Women gather in Birmingham for worship at the first .Mom (pronounced Dot Mom) event sponsored by LifeWay Women, for mothers of all ages. (BP photo)

sibility to keep their girls safe from predatory guys. "The greatest abuse is letting your [daughter] grow up thinking the world revolves around her," Kendall said. "The easiest way to make sure a girl is a bozo-magnet is to teach her that everything is all about her."

"Is your girl growing in her love for Jesus? Does she see that you are? Does she have a pattern of doing for others at home and at church?"

Kendall warned that girls who aren't helping other people are usually self-focused and will attract guys who are aware of this vulnerability. "Do you know why older guys date younger girls?" Kendall asked. "It's because they are easier to seduce."

Advising moms to step in if they see their freshman daughter dating a senior boy in high school or college, she said, "These guys see these younger girls as easy fruit. A girl will be all swooning and flattered that the older guy is interested in her, but you need to stop that relationship. He isn't interested in her, just interested in using her."

Kendall warned the women that as mothers, Sunday School teachers, or in other roles where they are around girls regularly, they need to watch for signs of abuse in girls who are in relationships with guys.

"Remind them that sex will ruin a good relationship and sustain a bad one," she said. "If you see a girl in a really bad [verbally, emotionally, or physically] abusive relationship, there is sex involved. These precious girls get involved with these bozo guys and get led around like dogs."



WATCH THE BOYS — Author Jackie Kendall urged mothers to be vigilant about the young men their daughters date, in a breakout session at the .Mom conference sponsored by LifeWay Women in Birmingham. (BP photo)

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director

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GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

*A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

OCTOBER 2011

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Mrs. W. C. Arendale
Amanda Brewer
Mrs. Malia Brewer
Mrs. David Ball
Amanda Brewer
Mrs. Malia Brewer
Mrs. Bobby Benson
Amanda Brewer
Mrs. Malia Brewer
Mrs. Art Broome
Amanda Brewer
Mrs. Malia Brewer
Mrs. Bobby Burkhalter
Amanda Brewer
Mrs. Malia Brewer
Mrs. Tim Cain
Amanda Brewer
Mrs. Malia Brewer
John & Peggy Carley
Mrs. Mary D. Ball
Roy Fountain
Mrs. Martha K. Hewes
Mrs. Johnny Golden
Amanda Brewer
Mrs. Malia Brewer
Mrs. Danny Holland
Amanda Brewer
Mrs. Malia Brewer
Mrs. Jan Hood
Amanda Brewer
Mrs. Malia Brewer
Mrs. Kenneth McGregor
Amanda Brewer
Mrs. Malia Brewer
Sally Miller
Theodore C. Miller
Tommy & Theresa Parish
The Aurora Club of Amory

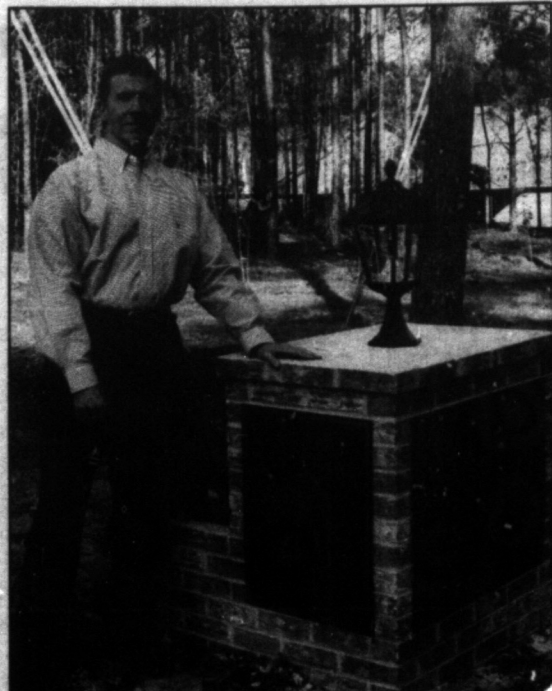
Mrs. P. R. Roberts
Amanda Brewer
Mrs. Malia Brewer
Dr. Doris Smith
Sharon & Herman Dungan
Mrs. Mike White
Amanda Brewer
Mrs. Malia Brewer
Mrs. Ken Williams
Amanda Brewer
Mrs. Malia Brewer
Mrs. Randy Willis
Amanda Brewer
Mrs. Malia Brewer

MEMORIALS

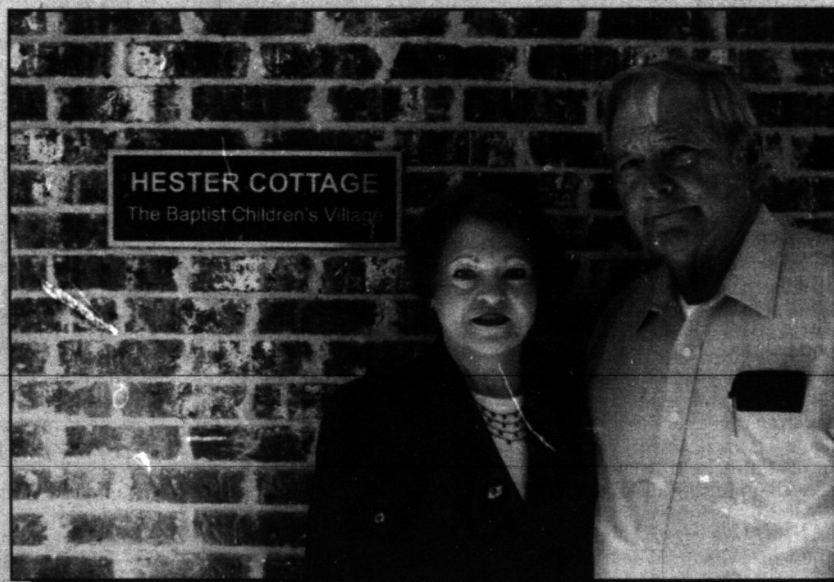
Jean (Friend of Mary Evans)
Rhen & Nell Pierce
Doris Ables
Larry & Pam Gnemi
Mr. Edwin D. Albin Sr.
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins
Mrs. Geraldine Roberts Baker
Tom & Bettye Coward
Dianne & Dennis Hall
Hope & Kenneth Hawkins
Ann & Frank Kinard
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel D. Roberts
Mrs. Thelma Roberts
Rev. Olyn Roberts
Bob & Jean Taylor
Bill Hollis
Louise Barham
Sam Hathorn
Matthew & Holly Miller
Mrs. Lola Bates
Central BC, Brandon

Patricia Beasley
Rhen & Nell Pierce
Mrs. Agatha Bishop
Mrs. Dot G. Griffin
Mrs. Teresa Bloodworth
Carrollton BC, Carrollton
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The John R. Woods
Family
Mrs. Joan Bowman
Mrs. June S. Stephenson
Mrs. Lucille Boykin
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Mr. Maurice Bradley
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins
Mrs. Lillian M. Bradley
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd E.
Fuqua Jr.
Charles Breland
Billy, Greg & Will Barron
Mrs. Virginia Brinson
Mrs. Ann B. Dale
Eunice Browder
Arlington Heights BC,
Pascagoula
Mr. Tommy Brown
Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Tramel Jr.
Virginia (Jenny) Brown
Mr. & Mrs. Gene
Fortenberry
Jahazel Buckley
Mr. Ted Buckley
Paulette Buel
Jack & Annie Lee
Churchwell
Phyllis Burch
Ms. Georgia Ziegler
Wiley F. Burch
The Bobby E. Eure
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Katherine Sundstrom
Louise Campbell
Mrs. Linda S. Campbell
Marvin Carlisle
Mr. & Mrs. Russell A.
Barnett
Mrs. Winnie Carlisle
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Cindy Chester
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Dungan
Larry Clanton
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Faulk
Mrs. Earlene Clark
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Hollingsworth
Joy Cliburn
Ms. Madera W. Wilson
Jack Cockrell
East Louisville BC,
Louisville
Gordon Coker
Gary, Tonya, Clint &
Caroline Stewart
Mrs. Eunice (Granville W.)
Cook
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy
Wilkinson
Don Crausby
Pontotoc HS Class of
1950
Mr. Bob Crowe
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins
Mrs. Grace (John W.) Cummins
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy
Wilkinson
Mrs. Pauline G. Dale
Ms. Deborah K. Clarke
Robert T. Daniels
Mr. & Mrs. Olen S.
Broom
Modan Davis
Channel of Blessings,
Central BC

Mr. Tyson Davis
Ms. Mary Jones Adams
Percy & Hilda Peeler
Hilton Dawson
Stanton BC-Natchez
Mr. Homer Denham
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David Denson
Mrs. Cherry Denson
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Rodney Floyd
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Donald Fredenberg
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Creek
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Jimmy & Bonnie
Hollingsworth
Geneva Gardner
Mr. Bobby C. Gardner
Corey Gatewood
Mrs. Mary D. Ball
Ms. Janice L. Russell
Robert "Bob" Pearson Gillespie
Mickey & Anne Austin
Jerry Wayne Goldman Sr.
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins
Mrs. Annette Goodwin
Mr. & Mrs. Terry E.
Champion
Ms. Jean Graves
Mrs. Elizabeth B. Graves
Mr. J. W. Gross
Mr. Vernon D. Haygood
Mr. Claude J. Guess
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins
Mrs. Eunice Guinn
Mr. & Mrs. Charles
Davis
Jean (Pat) McMillan Gully
Zephyr Hill Class of
1953 & 1954



Nash Nunnery stands at the entrance to the NEW India Nunnery Campus in Star, next to one of two entry markers that not only have the cottage and campus names, but are also adorned with plaques with reminders of those who provided for and had important roles on the original India Nunnery Campus. He is the son of Paul and Dorothy Nunnery for whom the Nunnery Cottage for girls is named. Serving as a member of the Board of Trustees, the BCV Executive Director and legal council to the Board, the Nunnerys were involved in the life of The Baptist Children's Village for 42 years. During the 31 years they served as Executive Director, 1,725 children were admitted into the care of the ministry. The campus is named for India Nunnery, deceased daughter of Paul & Dorothy.



Mr. & Mrs. Glyn Hester of Nettleton are pictured standing outside of the Hester Cottage for boys at the NEW India Nunnery Campus in Star. The Hesters have provided leadership on The Baptist Children's Village Board of Trustees. They have led teams of builders at Farrow Manor Campus in Independence, Deanash Campus in Wiggins, Ramey Cottage in Nanih Waiya, and the NEW India Nunnery Campus in Star to provide quality housing for children in the care of The Baptist Children's Village. The Hesters worked together as a team on each project, with Glyn leading the crew and Judy feeding the crew. Together they have impacted the lives of many children across Mississippi.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Adopt the Right Perspective

Deuteronomy 32: 1-9, 36-39, 43

By Huey Dedmon

Our lesson today finds Moses at the end of his life. Deuteronomy 31:30 (HCSB) says that Moses recited a "song" he had written to the children of Israel. His song is centered in the premise that all of life is lived in the greatness and graciousness of God. He uses the words of his song to take a step back in time and try to lead the Israelites to gain a new perspective for what is really important. As adults, our lives are so busy, we rarely take time to step back and see the big picture. This passage will help us adopt the right perspective of life as a whole.

God is Worth
Deuteronomy 32:1-4
Moses begins his song by

declaring the greatness of God. Having the right perspective must begin with a focus on our creator and sustainer. We, like the children of Israel, often place our focus on ourselves rather than on God. We tend to focus on our abilities, and on our resources. When we do this we begin to praise ourselves rather than God. We quickly forget that God is the owner of all we have and has allowed us to use it. We come together corporately and pat each other on the back for what we see as a job well done. The truth is what we can do does not even begin to touch what God can do through us. Adopting the right perspective on life begins when we place God at the fore-



Dedmon

front of everything we do. Moses called the children of Israel to remember the blessings and faithfulness of their God. We must remember that their God is our God and He is worthy of all our praise.

Humanity is Willful
Deuteronomy 32:5-9

It is so easy to look back at history of the children of Israel, and see how they strayed from God. Their sinfulness and rebelliousness is on almost every page you read. It would be very presumptuous of us to believe we are any different. Moses continues his song by pointing out the willful disobedience of God's people. His song is like a mirror for us to look into and see how we have strayed from the path of God. If we are going to have the right perspective on life we must examine our own hearts, not the hearts of others. No one knows what is in a person's heart except that person. We are so good at

pointing our fingers at others but refuse to acknowledge our own rebelliousness. We have so much to be thankful for to God. The question is, "Why would we want to go our own way? It is because we are a willful people and we choose to not follow God.

God's Ways are Wonderful
Deuteronomy 32: 36-39, 43

In spite of everything the children of Israel had done to disobey God, He had compassion on them. In this section of his song, Moses leads them, and us, to see the grace of God shown to all of His children, past and present. No matter how far we move away from God He is ready and willing to take us back if we repent and turn away from our sin. His punishment for disobedience is sure and swift, but His love and compassion are just as sure. Moses reminds us of the strength and sovereignty of God. When everything we have put our trust in has failed, God is the

only one who remains to deliver us in our time of need. (v39) The reward for following God's way is a relationship with the one true God. Through that relationship we enjoy His protection, His provision, and His graciousness. But we also are subject to His discipline. In verse 43, Moses reminds us that while we live under the protection of God, He has promised to "purify His land and His people." The right perspective in life is recognizing that God's ways are wonderful.

We all want to make our life count for God. Just like Moses, He has chosen us as His instrument and we must accept that call in our lives. When we do accept His call we will be faced with difficult situations where we must stand for the Lord. We will not be able to stand if we do not have the right perspective.

Dedmon is associate pastor for education and outreach, Brandon Church, Brandon.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Does your life speak well of God?

Romans 14:13-23

By Marion D. Duncan

When children are well-behaved, they speak well of the adults who are responsible for them, whether it be parents, grandparents, other relatives or a guardian. These adults have probably invested time in teaching these children the importance of good behavior emphasizing that what the children do reflects on the adults who have tried to help shape their lives making them happy and secure. But, how many of these adults who are Christians have recognized their behavior also reflects on Someone, specifically their Heavenly Father? When we as Christians sin, our behavior reflects poorly on God and His influence in our lives. In fact, good behavior is a tribute to God and what He has done and is still doing in our lives.

Paul is continuing to deal with the relationship of those in the fellowship who are strong in their Christian faith and those who are still struggling and questioning. He says there should be a respect marked by consideration for one another — not a lazy toleration, but an atmosphere of patience and understanding that acknowledges it is easier to guide and nurture a person into mature faith through love than by constant criticism. Christ did not honor Himself above his followers, but through the ages has taken the insults of those who have insulted us. He lived to please God and serve and help those around Him. Our lives are a tribute to Him when we give preference to others over ourselves. The study of scripture should be an integral part of the



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Christian fellowship, and from that study the Christian draws encouragement. From scripture, we gain the knowledge of God's dealing with a nation, a demonstration that it is always better to be right with God even through suffering than be on the side of men to avoid trouble. We learn that God's way is never easy, but it is the only way that makes life worth while in time and eternity.

The fellowship of believers also benefits from the study of scripture in the precious promises of God — promises from God who never breaks His word. They are tremendous treasures with which to meet the world. In these ways, scripture gives those who study it comfort in their sorrow and encouragement in their struggles so that they might have hope. Christian hope is the hope which has seen everything and endured everything, and still has not despaired, because it believes in God. (The Letter to the Romans, William Barclay) Paul issues a plea for unity in the fellowship, the basic concept

of which is harmony of thought that leads to harmony of life. This is life in accord with Christ Jesus, the way of love that manifests the harmony of together with one voice. "One mouth" is a vivid picture of the harmony that makes "one voice." One mind — one accord — one voice; that is the harmony that glorifies God. Such harmony accepts all the varieties among the fellowship and love binds them all together in perfect harmony. (Colossians 3:14) Vegetarianism and sabbatarianism on one hand and Christian freedom on the other are tensions that may make harmony in love. Good harmony is tension in balance. (The Broadman Bible Commentary, v. 10)

Here in verse seven, Paul makes a final appeal for all people in the Christian fellowship, Jew and Gentile, to receive each other just as Christ received each one, an act that will bring glory to God. "There may be many differences but there is only one Christ, and the bond of unity is a common loyalty to Him." (Barclay) "I tell you that Christ became a servant

of the Jews to show that God's promises to the Jewish ancestors (patriarchs) are true. And he also did this so that those who are not Jews (Gentiles) could give glory to God for the mercy he gives to them." (15:8, New Century Version) After reminding his readers of the Old Testament basis of their Christian hope (vv.9b-12), Paul prayed that God would fill them with joy and peace so that they might overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

My Tribute

To God be the glory for the things he has done
Just let me live my life and
Let it be pleasing Lord to thee
And if I gain any praise, let it
go to Calvary
With his blood he has saved me
With his power he has raised me
To God be the glory for the things he has done

(as performed by Andrae Crouch)

Duncan is a member and pastor's wife from First Church, Macon.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number. Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lit. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcc.org.

Happy Thanksgiving
from
the Baptist Children's Village



LifeWay fetes ten years of Holman Christian Standard

Editor's note: This year marks the 10th anniversary of the release of the Holman Christian Standard Bible's New Testament portion.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — By the mid-1990s, many Bible scholars, pastors, and general leaders had come to believe a new Bible translation was needed.

The New American Standard was perhaps the most accurate translation, but some felt it was not easily readable. The New International Version and New Living Translation were the most readable, but some questioned if this readability may have eclipsed accuracy and consistency in places.

Other major versions were not translations starting from the original Greek and Hebrew texts, but merely revisions of earlier English translations.

LifeWay Christian Resources assembled an interdenominational team of more than 100 scholars, editors, stylists, and proofreaders — all committed to biblical inerrancy. After years of work, they produced the Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB) New Testament 10 years ago and then released the full Bible in 2004. A revision was released in 2009.

"Our goal was to be as accurate as the New American Standard but to be as readable as the NIV (New International Version)," HCSB General Editor Ed Blum said, "and I think if you read our translation, you'll see that it is readable; it is accurate. ...I would say we're the most accurate of all the translations."

Before the HCSB, Bible translations were produced using one of two approaches: formal equivalence or dynamic equivalence. Formal equivalence

versions translate word-for-word from the Greek and Hebrew texts and preserve the grammatical patterns of the original languages wherever they can be reproduced in understandable English.

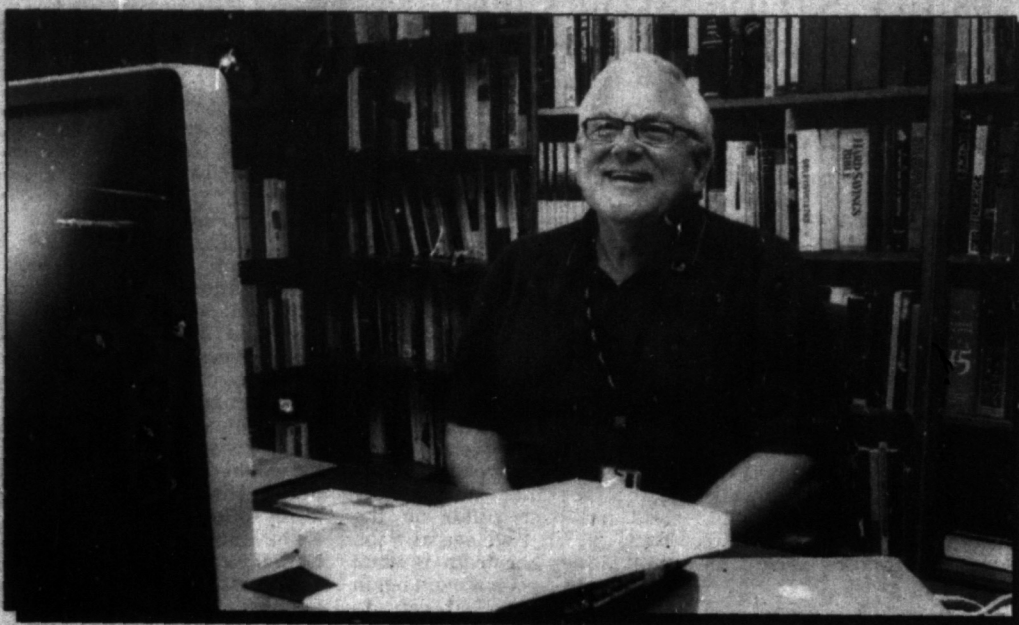
Dynamic equivalence versions of Scripture translate thought-for-thought, not always preserving the structure of the original languages since English does not use the same idioms and grammatical patterns as ancient languages.

The HCSB team attempted to capture the best of both approaches by adopting a new approach dubbed "optimal equivalence." According to this approach, the HCSB translated word-for-word whenever such a translation was clear and readable in modern English.

When a literal translation did not meet that standard, though, the HCSB used idiomatic English and put a literal translation in a footnote labeled "lit."

"We share many of the same commitments as formal equivalence translations," said HCSB associate general editor Ray Clendenen. "That is, we try to render word-for-word translation and translate a verb as a verb, an adjective as an adjective and things of that sort, and we try to translate a particular Hebrew or Greek word the same way throughout the Bible."

"We also share some of the commitments of the dynamic equivalence approach. For instance, whereas the formal equivalence approach says, 'If a literal, word-for-word translation makes sense in English, that's good enough,' optimal equivalence shares with dynamic equivalence the value of insisting that the English not only make sense,



TEN YEARS ON — Holman Christian Standard Bible associate general editor Ray Clendenen said the HCSB Bible, ten years old this month, is not a Baptist Bible. "It wasn't done by Baptists," he said. "It was done by a broad array of conservative scholars." (BP photo)

but that it be natural rather than awkward or wooden."

Blum added that the HCSB adopts grammatical standards of contemporary American English, not those of British English like the Revised Standard or English Standard Versions. Practically, that means using American style quotation marks, capitalizing nouns and pronouns that refer to deity, and using contractions like "don't" and "won't" where appropriate.

The HCSB also places bullets next to common theological terms the first time they are used in a chapter — more often for particularly important or misunderstood terms. Then a list of definitions for

those terms is provided in the back section.

Translation process

Achieving an accurate and readable English translation was not easy, Blum said. The HCSB team worked 22 times through the Greek text of John, for example, and the book of Isaiah took seven months to complete.

Each book went through several drafts, and translators all worked with English language stylists to achieve the most understandable text possible.

David Stabnow, an HCSB Old Testament editor, recalled the give-and-take process of working with a stylist.

"Usually we came to agreement on a translation that was both good English and accurate to the original without much difficulty," he said, "but every once in a while we struggled to come to agreement. She would say, 'That's not good English,' and I would say, 'But we need to be accurate. As a result, in no case was accuracy compromised.'"

Said Jeremy Howard, Bible publisher at LifeWay's B&H Publishing Group, "Accuracy and readability are the twin concerns of our approach to Bible translation. The HCSB translation team upheld both of these concerns with every decision they made."

First person: Question shocking; why so adversarial?

By Randy Rich, pastor
Hebron Church, Smithdale

Recently one of the fine members of our Brotherhood group asked a question that shook me to my core. It was neither an unusual question, nor was it a question that I had not heard before.

Sadly, I have never been shaken by the question before: "When we are witnessing to a stranger, how can we know if the person is lost or saved?" My answer was right out of the textbook: "You cannot know whether a person is lost or saved. Instead, we share Christ with everyone. If the person is saved, you will get to share fellowship with a brother or sister in Christ. If the person is lost, then you will have the privilege of presenting the Gospel."

The two things that confounded me after the meeting were the adversarial nature of the question and the confirmation of an often-heard criticism of Christians by the world. As the two things swirled in my mind and heart, they eventually merged into one. Was evangelism ever intended to be an adver-

sarial program where we target people for conversion? Is judgment necessary before sharing the Good News?

Jesus said, "Judge not, that you be not judged." (Matthew 7:1) If my friend felt compelled to decide whether a person was lost or saved before presenting the Gospel, then the encounter started in a negative tone of superiority. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, in *Ethics*, reminded Christians that judging usurps a prerogative God reserved exclusively for Himself. Judging is therefore the essence of the presumptive sin of Eden: "I am right. God is wrong."

My friend is neither judgmental nor adversarial. In fact, he is one of the kindest, most tender hearted people I know. Christians are often criticized for targeting converts. Our missionaries work dili-



Rich

gently to balance their ministries in light of this criticism. Recent upheavals regarding prayer at public school events have caused these criticisms to surface again in our local communities — "These Christians are trying to shove something down my throat..."

The criticisms are overblown but there might just be a kernel of truth in them that should give us pause. Perhaps the enthusiasm for church growth has been perceived as our primary purpose rather than the byproduct of the greatest news in human history.

Evangelism is never a program. There are no targets. Salvation is conceived in the love and mercy of God and needs no defense. It only needs sharing. Evangelism is a lifestyle. We share Christ with everyone. We are not seeking converts. We are sharing Jesus. When people meet Jesus, they convert! It is not a thing we do, it is who we are. A recent post-game handshake between two NFL coaches proves that enthusiasm can be easily misapplied and misunderstood.

Sharing does not begin with judgment. Sharing begins with love, is motivated by love, and finishes in love. Jesus taught his

disciples, and us, three directions for love. Love God. Love your neighbors. Love each other. The first makes the last two possible. The second is demonstrated by the third. Our neighbors may first be introduced to Christ by the way Christians love each other. Through missions, neighbors then directly benefit from that same love.

Let us consider a few suggestions that might just make our sharing more appealing to others. In line with the model Jesus gave us, let us always be gentle. Aggressive defense of the faith is neither necessary nor helpful. We are working to include, not exclude. Therefore, in love we bear witness to the joyous life change that comes in knowing Christ.

Secondly, let us genuinely invest ourselves in the lives of the people around us. There is nothing more compelling than someone who really cares and does something about it. Thirdly, let us be constantly reminded of the magnificent grace of God that pulled us out of the world of sin and gave us the joy of living in Christ for eternity.

May that grace motivate our witness!